

Clinical Laboratory Update

November 2020

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From the desk of the Public Health Laboratory Director

Recently published articles feature MHDL staff as co-authors

MHDL staff co-authored two recent publications on COVID-19 related research, including [“Revealing fine-scale spatiotemporal differences in SARS-CoV-2 introduction and spread,”](#) published in the November 2020 issue of Nature Communications, and [“Symptoms and Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Among Children – Utah and Wisconsin, March-May 2020,”](#) published in the October issue of Pediatrics.

MHDL releases second video

MHDL recently released its second video of the year, featuring a [behind-the-scenes look at our dedicated team in action](#). MHDL has a long history of supporting local public health systems by providing clinical, environmental and reference testing services, as well as being actively involved in applied research and workforce development. As you may know, our lab routinely collaborates with other MHD divisions, local health care providers, academic institutions, and community organizations – such as yourselves – to protect the health of the community by providing real-time disease surveillance and responding to public health threats. Earlier this year MHDL also produced a [video on COVID-19 testing](#).

MHDL announces holiday hours

MHDL will be closed **Thursday, December 24** and **Friday, December 25** for the Christmas holiday, and **Thursday, December 31** and **Friday, January 1** for the New Year's holiday. COVID specimens can still be dropped off on holidays and weekends following [after-hours drop-offs instructions](#).

Data for COVID-19 testing performed at MHDL during the month of November is included as a supplement to this report.

Links to related information & data:

[MHDL COVID-19 Testing website](#)

[MHD COVID-19 Situation](#)

[WSLH Laboratory Surveillance Report](#)

Sexually Transmitted Infections

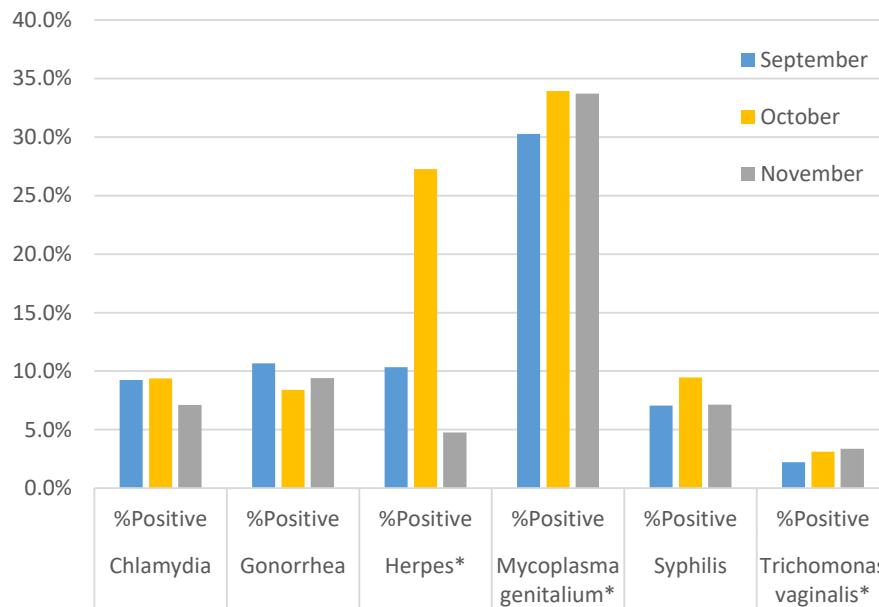


Figure 1: Percent positivity for specimens screened using molecular or serological assays for the given organism.

*Not reportable as per WI DHS 145.04 (3) (a)

Respiratory Infections

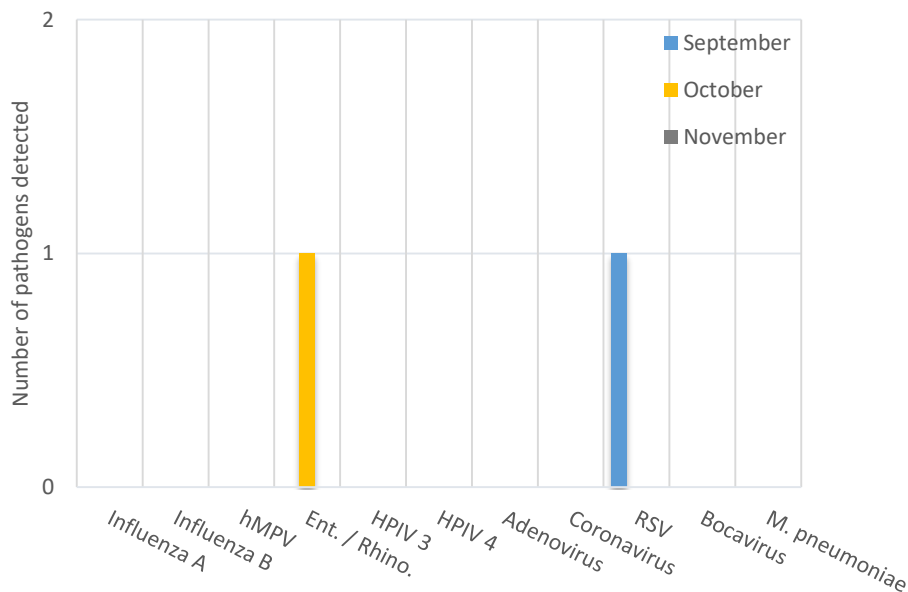


Figure 2: Respiratory pathogens detected using a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) and/or RT-PCR Influenza assay.

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health department:



New HIV Infections

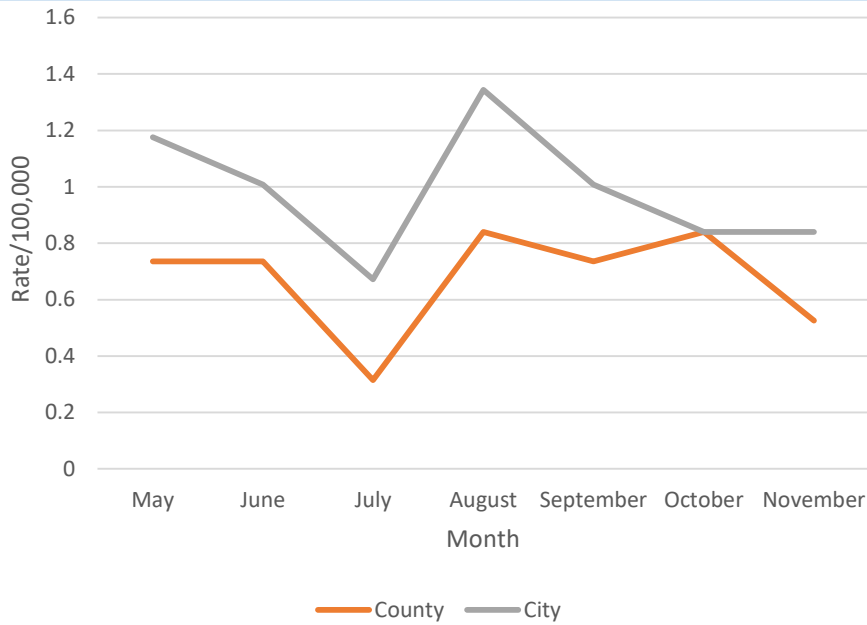


Figure 3: Monthly comparison of rate of new HIV infections in Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee, using data obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Numbers are provisional and subject to change.

For statewide HIV data, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hiv/data.htm>

Syphilis Surveillance

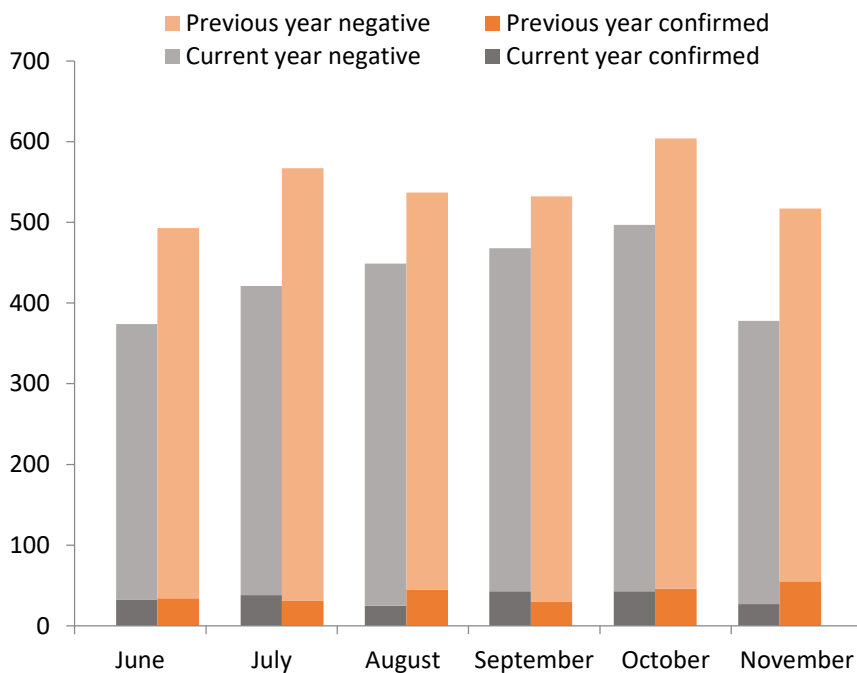


Figure 4: Monthly comparison of syphilis data with year over year comparisons.

Number of specimens screened at MHD, darker bars represent confirmed tests.

Gonorrhea Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

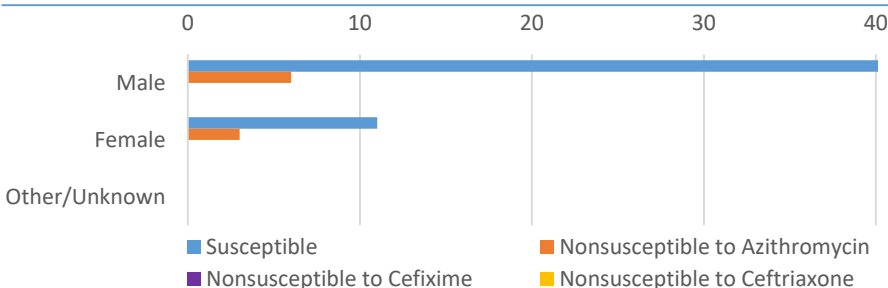


Figure 5: Antibiotic susceptibility profile of Gonorrhea isolates identified in males and females. In November 2020, 9 of 66 cultures tested were found to be nonsusceptible to Azithromycin according to CLSI guidelines. MHD tests for antibiotic resistance to Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Cefixime and Gentamicin.

Sexually Transmitted Infections by Source

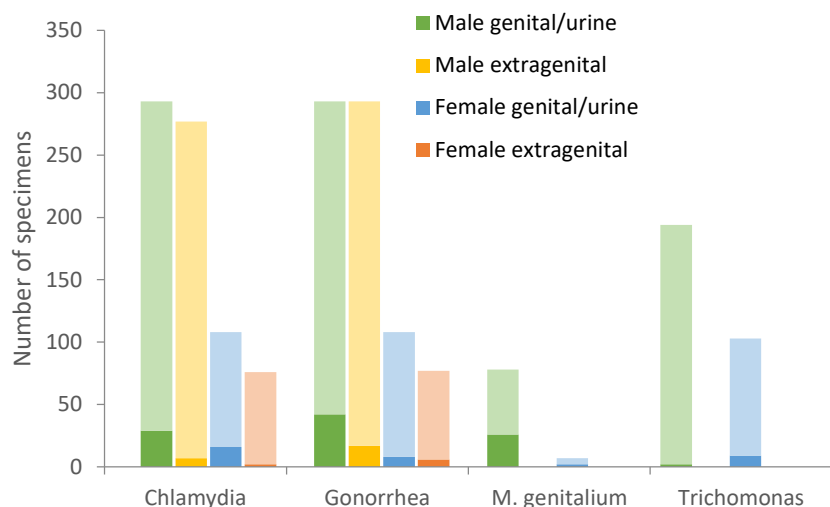


Figure 6: Distribution of STIs detected using NAAT. In November 2020, 6.3% of male and 9.8% of female specimens screened were positive for Chlamydia. 10.1% of male and 7.6% of female specimens were positive for Gonorrhea. 33.3% of male and 2 of the 7 female specimens were positive for *M. genitalium*. 1.0% of male specimens and 8.7% of female specimens were positive for *Trichomonas*.

Note: Darker bars indicate positive specimens.

Viral Surveillance

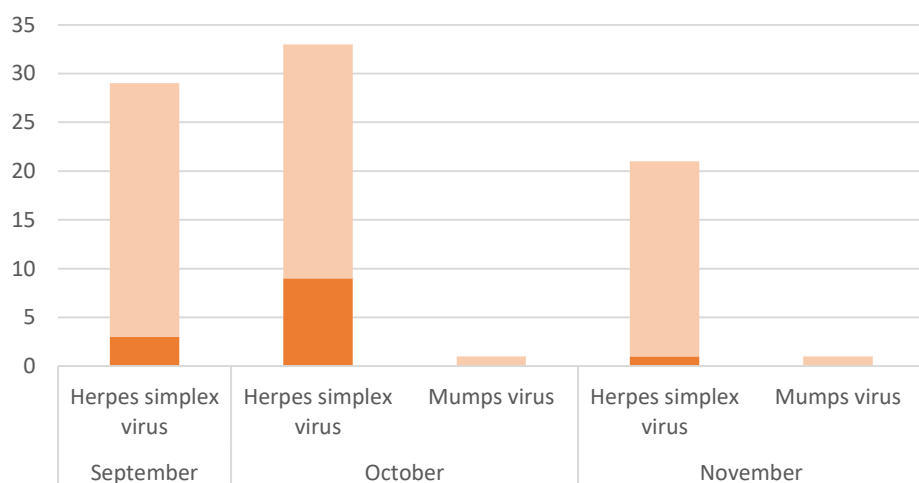


Figure 7: Specimens tested using molecular methods.

Note: Height of bar indicates number of specimens tested.

Darker bars indicate DNA/RNA detected by virus culture, real-time PCR and/or nucleotide sequencing analysis.

Legionella Testing

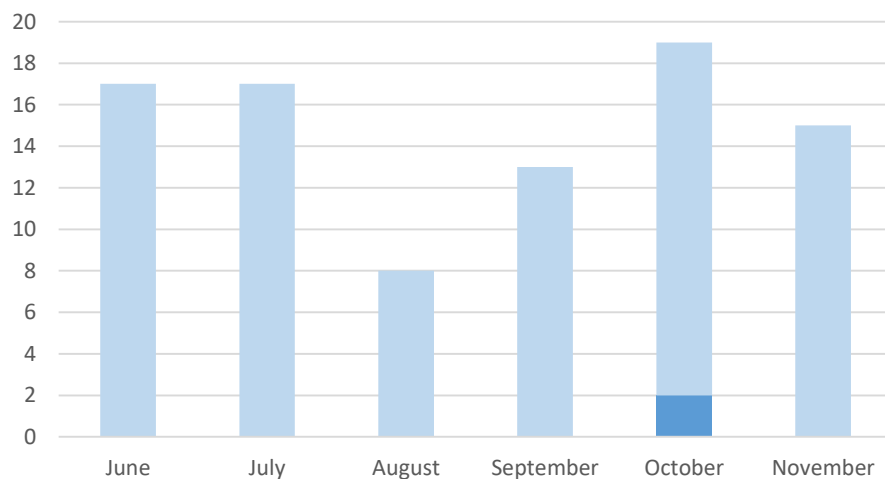


Figure 8: Clinical specimens tested using culture and molecular methods.

*MHDL is one of the **CDC ELITE** certified sites for environmental *Legionella* testing. See the Winter 2019 issue of the [APHL Bridges newsletter](#) for more information.

*Note: Darker bars indicate confirmed *Legionella pneumophila* by culture and/or real-time PCR.*